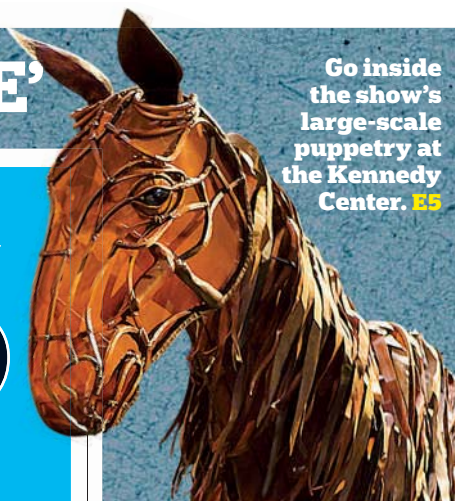


MAN POWERS BEAST IN 'WAR HORSE'

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Thursday

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A RISING STAR

Otto Porter is the big man on campus for the Hoyas this season **17**

STORM AFTERMATH

Experts say floods from Sandy won't hit historic levels in D.C. **14**

HIGH DRAMA

Sick of Romney and Obama? Watch these pretend pols instead **23**

am **57** | **42** pm

FOR EXTENDED FORECAST, SEE PAGE 37



Making The Best of It

With power and patience in short supply, the Northeast adjusts to life after Superstorm Sandy **15**

With limited functioning transportation options, people in Hoboken, N.J., wait for ferry tickets Wednesday to New York City days after Superstorm Sandy devastated the Northeast.

eo

eye openers

PSYCHOLOGY

Man Conditioned to Never Go Into Bathrooms Ever Again

A California man is licking his wounds after being pummeled by a karate student who police say found the drunken intruder in her bathroom. Police say Wilberto Zapata, 18, mistakenly went into the wrong apartment unit, and Jannine Ramirez, who had just won a karate competition, knocked down the bathroom door and kicked and punched Zapata until he left. (AP)

"We learned what weapons to use to kill some Zombies."

— **WILLIAM MIHALOPOULOS**, AN EIGHTH-GRADER AT JOHN DEERE MIDDLE SCHOOL IN MOLINE, ILL., ON TAKING A 10-WEEK-LONG CLASS ON ZOMBIE SURVIVAL, WHICH WILL EASE INTO REAL-LIFE SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES, WQAD REPORTED TUESDAY

PETS

For-Sale Ad Also Double As Description for Teenagers

Everyone has a few faults. In Beaky's case, he swears (a lot) and he bites. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals supervisor Angelina Lusher said Wednesday that anyone in London who takes in the parrot will have to put up with some rude language and the fact that the chattering lory tends to bite people until he bonds with them. Lusher said Beaky needs interaction with people or other birds to have a fulfilling life, the Telegraph reported. (AP)

The Big Picture

VANO SHLAMOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



BEHAVE OR WE'LL LIFT OFF: Children play Monday inside a Soviet-era Yakovlev Yak-42 plane that was turned into their kindergarten classroom in Rustavi, Georgia. Local teacher Gari Chapidze bought the retired Yak-42 from Georgian Airways and refurbished its interior with educational equipment, games and toys but left the cockpit instruments intact so they could be used as play tools.

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Obama, Christie Tour Ruin in N.J.

President, governor set aside politics to view storm damage

Washington

Here's an image few probably expected to see six days before Election Day: President Barack Obama and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie — a Republican who is one of Mitt Romney's most vocal supporters — walking together in a show of government unity.

Obama, mired in both disaster relief and the fight for re-election, landed Wednesday in New Jersey for a joint tour of storm damage with Christie, a potential future presidential candidate who delivered the keynote address that tore into Obama during this year's Republican National Convention.

The deadly storm, which led Christie to request, and Obama to approve, the designation of New Jersey as a major disaster area, neutralized the nastiness of campaign season, if only for a day or two.

Stepping onto the tarmac in



President Barack Obama embraces Donna Vanzant on Wednesday as he visits Brigantine, N.J., with Gov. Chris Christie, left.

Meanwhile ...

A week before Election Day, in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, Mitt Romney's campaign reassured voters that his administration wouldn't leave disaster victims in the lurch. "I believe that FEMA plays a key role in working with states and localities to prepare for and respond to natural disasters," Romney said in a statement supplied by his campaign Wednesday. "As president, I will ensure FEMA has the funding it needs." (AP)

Atlantic City, N.J., Obama greeted Christie with a smile and repeated pats on the back. They walked side by side toward the helicopter that took them high above Sandy's destruction. Later, they walked the storm-ravaged streets together, talking to Sandy's victims.

"I cannot thank the president enough for his personal concern and compassion for our state and the people of our state," Christie said later in Brigantine, N.J.

"Gov. Christie throughout this process has been responsive,"

Obama said. "He's been aggressive in making sure the state got out in front of this incredible storm."

Setting the stage for the president's visit was a round of television interviews Christie gave a day earlier. "The president has been all over this and he deserves great credit," Christie said in one such interview.

He was much less effusive when asked whether Mitt Romney would be coming to help: "I have no idea, nor am I the least bit concerned or interested." JOSH LEDERMAN (AP)



Not a Trick: A Massachusetts fisherman caught a lobster that's colored to match Halloween. The New England Aquarium said Wednesday the 1-pound female lobster has an orange side and a black side, with the colors split perfectly down the middle. Marine officials say such coloration is estimated to occur once in every 50 million lobsters. The rare lobsters have been caught in Maine, Rhode Island and Nova Scotia in the past 10 years. (AP)

In Brief

WINNSBORO, TEXAS

Green Party Candidate Arrested at Protest



Stein

Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein was arrested Wednesday in Winnsboro, Texas, while attempting to resupply protesters camping out in trees to oppose the Keystone XL pipeline, according to anti-pipeline activists. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

DETROIT

Authorities Seek Suspect In 24 Roadway Shootings

Officers have begun pulling over and questioning drivers in four Michigan counties in the hope of catching a man suspected of firing on two dozen vehicles since Oct. 16, including one whose driver was wounded over the weekend. (AP)

RIVERSIDE, CALIF.

Girl: Brother, 10, Planned To Kill Their Neo-Nazi Dad

A girl testified Wednesday that her 10-year-old brother, the son of a neo-Nazi leader, planned for four days to kill their father before getting a gun from their parents' closet and killing him. The boy, now 12, is charged with the May 2011 killing of his father, Jeff Hall. (AP)

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Nation

High Court Hears Drug-Dog Cases

Justices to consider curbing police use of the trained canines

Washington

The Supreme Court on Wednesday considered limiting police use of drug-sniffing dogs as lawyers argued that using a dog's hypersensitive nose outside a home to indicate the possibility of illegal substances inside amounts to an unconstitutional breach of privacy.

Florida v. Jardines asks whether it was constitutional for Miami-Dade County police, acting on a tip, to bring a dog, Franky, to Joelis Jardines' front door. Franky alerted to the smell of marijuana, the police used that to obtain a warrant, and Jardines was arrested on suspicion of turning his home into a "grow house."

Florida v. Harris asks a more basic question of whether judges should be skeptical of Fido's quali-

Meanwhile ...

A study last year at the University of California at Davis — disputed by some in the dog-handling industry — indicated that handlers had much to do with when a dog alerted. It brought together 18 K-9 teams and ran them through a test facility at which the handlers had been told that some targets had been marked and some had not. Together, the teams racked up 225 false alerts. Only one team was perfect — the one that did not alert at all, because no drugs were in the facility. (TWP)

fications. It builds on research that shows a high rate of false alerts and cases of manipulation by a dog's handler.

The Florida Supreme Court said that judges should look at the "totality of circumstances," including a dog's training and certification records, field performance and evidence of the handler's training

and experience.

On Wednesday, lawyer Gregory Garre, who represented the state of Florida in both cases, argued in Franky's case that because it wouldn't be illegal for a police officer to sniff for marijuana outside a door, it shouldn't be illegal for a dog like Franky to do the same thing.

If that's true, said Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, then police could just walk down a street with drug-sniffing dogs in "a neighborhood that's known to be a drug-dealing neighborhood, just go down the street, have the dog sniff in front of every door, or go into an apartment building? I gather that that is your position."

"Your Honor, they could do that, just like the police could go door to door and to knock on the doors and hope that they will find out evidence of wrongdoing that way," Garre said.

The justices will rule in the cases sometime next year.

(AP/THE WASHINGTON POST)

\$36M The cost of a solar park in Puerto Rico. Construction began Wednesday as the island seeks to reduce its dependence on petroleum. The park, built by Yarotek LLC, is expected to generate energy for 2,500 homes. (AP)

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World

In Brief

TRIPOLI, LIBYA

Lawmakers OK Cabinet

Libya's parliament on Wednesday approved the country's new Cabinet, a parliament spokesman said, but some ministers will get a second look. Five of the 27 ministers will be reconsidered over their ties to Moammar Gadhafi. (AP)

ATHENS, GREECE

Austerity Plan Updated

Greece's government on Wednesday outlined the new austerity measures it intends to take over the next two years, a series of painful cuts and tax hikes that its bailout creditors are demanding in exchange for rescue loans. (AP)

Syrian Regime Steps Up Offensive

Airstrikes pummel rebel strongholds as civil war intensifies

Beirut

Syrian warplanes pounded opposition strongholds around Damascus and in the north Wednesday as President Bashar Assad's forces intensified airstrikes following the failure of a U.N.-backed cease-fire, activists said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which gathers reports from activists on the ground, said government jets carried out five strikes in the eastern Ghou-



"This has to be a representation of those who are on the front lines fighting and dying today to obtain their freedom."

— HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, ON WEDNESDAY SAYING THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION WOULD PUSH FOR A MAJOR SHAKE-UP IN SYRIA'S OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP

ta district, a rebel stronghold close to the capital.

Three airstrikes also hit the rebel-held city of Maaret al-Numan, which straddles a key supply route from Damascus to Aleppo and has become a main front.

No casualties were reported in Wednesday's strikes, the Observatory said.

However, at least 185 people were killed nationwide in airstrikes and artillery shelling the day before, pushing the total death toll since

the conflict began in March 2011 to more than 36,000, according to the Observatory. At least 47 soldiers were also killed Tuesday.

In the past weeks, the regime has intensified airstrikes on rebel positions and strongholds, particularly Maaret al-Numan, which fell to rebel forces on Oct. 10.

A former resident of the city said more than 70 homes have been leveled as a result of air bombardments this week alone.

"The Syrian air force doesn't leave the skies. When the warplane goes, the helicopter comes," a resident who identified himself as Ahmad said Wednesday, speaking from a nearby village. BARBARA SURK (AP)

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World

Afghanistan Sets Presidential Vote for '14

Kabul, Afghanistan

Afghans will elect a new president in the spring of 2014 in a ballot considered crucial for their country's stability and security after more than 11 years of war.

Afghan politicians and the country's foreign backers hailed Wednesday's announcement as a step toward a peaceful transition of power. The Taliban, who could make or break the poll, denounced it as meaningless and vowed to keep on fighting.

The government-appointed Independent Electoral Commission set polling day as April 5, 2014, the same year that most troops in the U.S.-led NATO coalition will have left in a withdrawal that has already begun.

The date is in line with the Afghan constitution adopted after the coalition ousted the Taliban in 2001. But the Taliban claimed the vote was an American ploy.

"These are not elections, they are selections," said spokesman Qari Youssof Ahmadi. "The U.S.

Backstory



The 2009 poll that gave Afghan President Hamid Karzai a second term was marred by allegations of massive fraud and vote-rigging, while violence in Taliban-dominated regions helped limit overall turnout to 33 percent. The constitution limits Karzai to two terms, and he has said he will not try for a third. (AP)

wants to select those people it wants and who will work for the purpose of the enemy."

The Taliban are the country's main opposition group, and President Hamid Karzai has in the past asked the insurgents to lay down their weapons and join the political process. But they have vowed to keep fighting.

Peace talks are stalled, and the Taliban show no signs of relenting in their fight. But it remains unclear what the insurgents will do ahead of the elections. (AP)

Hearsay



"Whoever willfully takes disputes to the people ... to provoke differences has definitely committed treason."

— **AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI**, IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER, ON WEDNESDAY WARNING OFFICIALS AGAINST TURNING DISPUTES INTO A PUBLIC DISCUSSION. IT WAS A JAB AT PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD, WHO PUBLICLY BLASTED THE JUDICIARY CHIEF LAST WEEK.

500 The number of years, as of Thursday, since Michelangelo's ceiling of frescoes in the Sistine Chapel was inaugurated. Pope Benedict XVI marked the anniversary Wednesday by saying vespers beneath the famed frescoes, as his predecessor Julius II had half a millennium earlier. At least 10,000 people visit the celebrated site each day. (AP)

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Express Lanes on Track

Operators say I-495 roads could be done before Thanksgiving

Springfield, Va.

The 495 Express Lanes on the Capital Beltway between Springfield and the Dulles Toll Road area could open as early as Nov. 17, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation and the lane operators.

The operators said recently they expected the opening would come in the middle of a weekend, though until Wednesday, they weren't prepared to say which weekend that

would be. If the schedule holds, most commuters' first experience with the new lanes would be on Monday, Nov. 19.

There will be no free get-acquainted period as there was when Maryland's Intercounty Connector opened. As soon as these four new lanes in the middle of the Beltway open, they will operate as designed: Cars will need E-ZPass transponders. Drivers who have at least three people aboard and have the new-style transponder called an E-ZPass Flex can set the Flex to carpool mode and get a free ride. Other drivers will pay a toll that varies with the level of traffic congestion.

Metro Resumes

Washington's Metro system started operating a normal weekday schedule Wednesday for the first commute after Superstorm Sandy. It also began running a regular weekday bus schedule. There are some detours because of downed trees. (AP)

"This facility will have a regional impact on all travelers," VDOT commissioner Greg Whirley said in a statement. "We need drivers to be prepared for the changes in traffic patterns and new rules of the road." ROBERT THOMSON (THE WASHINGTON POST)

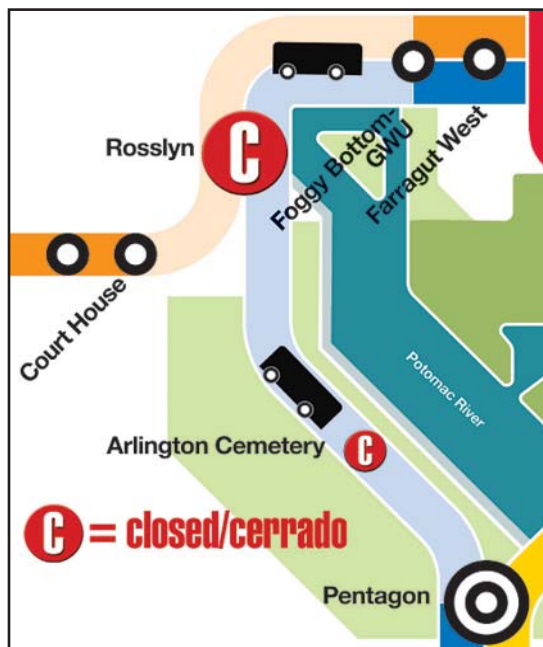


Submitted by Sam Singh: I combined five images to make this High Dynamic Range (HDR) image at Medical Center station.



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TRACK WORK THIS WEEKEND



From Friday, November 2 at 10 p.m. to Sunday, November 4 at closing: Buses replace trains on the Blue Line between Foggy Bottom-GWU and Pentagon and on the Orange Line between Foggy Bottom-GWU and Court House while Metro upgrades rail and fasteners, repairs insulators, replaces ties and repairs tunnel leaks. For last train times or information about shuttle bus service, parking, alternate routes or track work on upcoming weekends, please visit MetroForward.com or call 202-637-7000.



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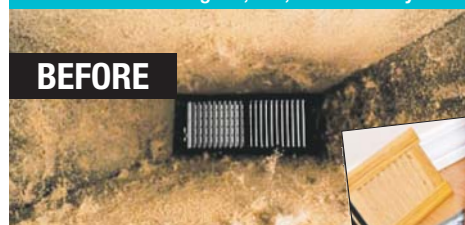
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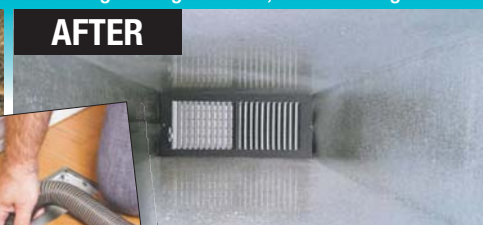
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Poll: Oval Office Race Too Close To Call in Va.

Richmond

Mitt Romney has wooed enough female voters to make the presidential race too close to call in Virginia, according to a new poll that also finds the U.S. Senate race between Tim Kaine and George Allen narrowing.

President Barack Obama leads GOP challenger Romney 49 percent to 47 percent among likely Virginia voters in a Quinnipiac University poll released Wednesday. Obama's advantage is within the poll's margin of error and represents a dip since Quinnipiac's Oct. 11 poll. (AP)

Union Station Bookstore to Shut

Washington

Barnes & Noble plans to close its doors in Union Station on Dec. 31, joining the list of other Washington-area bookstores that have closed amid a rocky economy and sliding book sales.

The store, on the main floor near the station's entrance above the Metro entrance, enjoys a visible spot for passengers and shoppers coming through the station.

But the space is being prepared for redevelopment, according to Barnes & Noble spokeswoman Mary Ellen Keating, and though the chain considered relocating to other space in the station, it opted to close instead. "The current store



The Barnes & Noble at 12th Street NW will be the only one in D.C. in 2013.

location is being redeveloped and we were offered another location within Union Station," she said in an email. "However the alternate location did not make sense."

Barnes & Noble recently closed

another store, on M Street in Georgetown. Beverley Swaim-Staley, head of the Union Station Redevelopment Corp., said she was aware that the closure was coming but didn't know what would happen with the space. "I know they are closing," she said. "I haven't been given a final date."

Other bookstore locations did not remain empty for long. The two-story Borders store on 14th Street became the Hamilton, a restaurant and music venue by Clyde's Group, after receiving a subsidy from the D.C. government. Nike opened a store in the former Georgetown Barnes & Noble last week. JONATHAN O'CONNELL

(CAPITAL BUSINESS)

The Lotteries

Wednesday, Oct. 31

District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers 8-4-6
Evening Lucky Numbers (Tues.) 9-9-0
Mid-day DC 4 0-5-0-6
Evening DC 4 (Tues.) 5-7-6-3
Mid-day D.C. Five 8-5-8-6-4
Evening D.C. Five (Tues.) 3-1-9-3-3

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3 1-9-3
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.) 8-3-7
Mid-day Pick 4 8-7-3-3
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.) 8-5-5-7
Match 5 (Tues.) 10-11-17-33-37 (5)

Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3 0-5-4
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.) 7-5-0
Mid-day Pick 4 6-1-5-9
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.) 2-5-9-4
Mid-day Cash 5 7-12-21-23-24
Evening Cash 5 (Tues.) 1-4-8-26-31

Multi-State Games

Mega Millions (Tues.) 5-12-18-29-56
Mega Ball 38

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a claims location. Drawings that occur after Express' deadline will be published two days later.

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28X Leesburg Pike — Buses will serve stops every 15 minutes between Mark Center and West Falls Church station and every 30 minutes between West Falls Church station and Tysons Corner.

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Local

Flood Concerns Remain in Area

Officials say water levels will grow until Thursday afternoon

Washington

Like a snake that just swallowed its dinner, the Potomac is bulging with water from the week's rain, spilling over its banks into Georgetown and Alexandria with each high tide.

But even as the river flushed down several inches of rain that fell on its watershed beginning Sunday, weather experts said the massive storm system would not deliver the historic flood levels they



A police car blocks off a low-lying area of Old Town Alexandria Tuesday afternoon.

once feared.

The National Weather Service said moderate flooding would continue through Thursday afternoon, projecting the river would reach about 2 feet above normal in Alexandria and Georgetown at high tide late Wednesday night.

"Georgetown and Alexandria typically flood a couple of times a year," said Jason Samenow of the Washington Post's Capital Weather Gang. "This will be closer to that, and it's not going to be a historic flooding."

Moderate flooding was expected to continue through Thursday on the Atlantic coastline.

While more than 25,000 people

Proper Disposal

D.C. residents can dispose of spoiled food from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday at four sites that the Department of Public Works has set up.

- Fort Stevens Recreation Center, 1327 Van Buren St. NW
- Wilson High School, 3950 Chesapeake St. NW
- Trinidad Recreation Center, 1310 Childress St. NE
- Kelly Miller Middle School, 4900 Brooks St. NE

remained without power region-wide, they were a tiny fraction of the number who lost electricity in the storm's 60 mph winds.

ASHLEY HALSEY III, ALLISON KLEIN AND KATHERINE SHAVER (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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Cover Story

CRAIG RUTTLE/AP



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES



At left, David Bagatelle slogs through the streets of Hoboken, N.J., on Wednesday, two days after Superstorm Sandy ravaged the region, including the historic Rockaway boardwalk, at right, in New York City's Queens.

Plugging Away

In Sandy's aftermath, Northeasterners learn to make do in a lengthy blackout

New York

Millions of families tried to adjust to life without modern conveniences Wednesday, two days after Superstorm Sandy ripped through the Northeast and blacked out some of the nation's most densely populated cities and suburbs.

At luxury hotels and drugstores and Starbucks shops that bubbled back to life, people clustered around outlets and electrical strips, desperate to recharge their devices. In the Meatpacking District of Manhattan, a line of people filled pails with water from a fire hydrant. Two children used jack-o'-lantern trick-or-treat buckets.

Homes grew chilly without heat. Food spoiled in refrigerators. And people scurried for a spot to charge their cellphones.

"We are going to need some patience and some tolerance," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said.



A man in Hoboken, N.J., charges his phone Wednesday, thanks to an extension cord from a house that didn't lose power in Sandy.

On Wednesday, both were frayed, though by and large, Americans tried to make the best of a situation that was beyond their control.

Sandy's footprint was enormous, knocking down wires and rendering other critical equipment useless across a huge span of the country, from Vir-

After the Storm

- Wall Street:** The N.Y. Stock Exchange, running on generator power, opened Wednesday to whoops from traders after being closed Monday and Tuesday.
- Transit:** New York's subway system was still down, but parts of it were slated to begin running Thursday. Some commuter rail service resumed Wednesday afternoon.
- Amtrak:** The railroad plans to restore some service Friday to and from New York City.
- Tourism:** Museums, the Empire State Building and Broadway theaters reopened Wednesday.
- Airports:** Kennedy and Newark airports began handling flights again. LaGuardia Airport, which still had water on its runways, remained closed.
- Hoboken, N.J.:** National Guard trucks rolled into flooded streets to deliver meals and evacuate people.
- Brick Township, N.J.:** Natural gas fires raged Wednesday. No injuries were reported. (AP)

No Tricks Or Treats

From the wrath of nature to the wrath of young children: From Maryland to Kentucky to Maine, Halloween festivities were being canceled or postponed in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. Perhaps the most high-profile postponement was that of New York's huge parade in Greenwich Village. (Trick-or-treating, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said, could go ahead as long as caution was used.) President Barack Obama also changed plans, breaking a three-year tradition of passing out sweets in the White House driveway. (AP)

ginia to Massachusetts and as far west as the Great Lakes. Utilities struggled to restore power — a massive job they warned could last well into next week.

For power companies, the scale of the destruction was unmatched. The damage is worse than the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

About 8.2 million homes and businesses were initially without power. By Wednesday night, that had fallen to 6 million households and businesses.

Even as power slowly returned to some pockets, a new headache emerged: Backup batteries and generators running cellphone towers were running out of juice.

A respected New York steakhouse in the blackout zone, Old Homestead, realized its meat was going to go bad and decided to grill what was left and sell steaks on the sidewalk for \$10. A center-cut sirloin usually goes for \$47.

"Give back to the people of New York," said Greg Sherry, the steakhouse's co-owner. He said it had served nearly 700 people Wednesday.

People who did have power took to social media to offer help to neighbors.

"I have power and hot water. If anyone needs a shower or to charge some gadgets or just wants to bask in the beauty of artificial light, hit me up," Rob Hart of Staten Island posted on Facebook. (AP)

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Otto Pilot

Sophomore is expected to help Georgetown take off this season

Hoyas Hoops

It's ironic, all the preseason attention being heaped on sophomore Otto Porter.

It wasn't that long ago that Big East coaches snubbed Georgetown's Swiss army knife of a freshman forward at the end of the 2011-12 season.

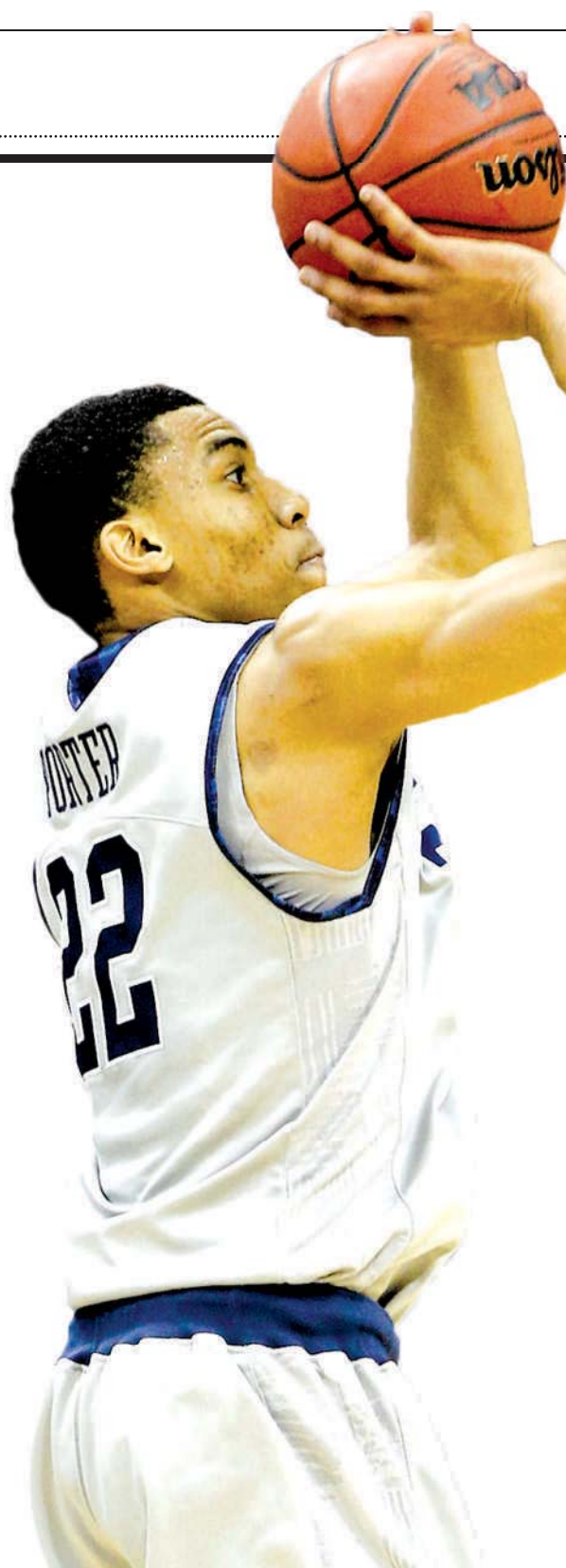
In his first year with the Hoyas, the rural Missouri high school product flashed the point-producing acumen of a more seasoned player. The 6-foot-8 Porter proved he could rebound with abandon and defend players tall and small. His beat-the-press ball-handling skills became an in-game staple. He remained calm under late-game pressure, with a poise that produced big plays in the clutch.

Despite Porter's talent and can-do attitude, the Big East voting coaches passed on him for the conference's All-Freshman Team. The eye-rolling on Georgetown's campus continues to this day.

The Hoyas have always known what they had in Porter, the unquestioned rising star on this season's seniorless roster.

"Otto's had one of the better offseasons in terms of the guys on this team. That goes unspoken a little bit because he was so good last year," said junior forward Nate Lubick, part of last season's squad that picked up the program's first NCAA tournament win in four years. "He's gotten better in a lot of different ways, which is scary because he was kind of a jack-of-all-trades last year. I think he's ready to have a big year for us."

Porter's offseason included stops at the LeBron James and Kevin Durant basketball camps, two high-profile events on the summer calendar that draw tal-



Beyond the Numbers

Stats alone do not define Otto Porter's impressive first campaign, though he led the Hoyas in **rebounding (6.8)** and **field goal percentage (52.5)** while averaging **9.7 points** and **1.1 steals**. Expect more scoring as he and fellow sophomore Greg Whittington likely fill the void left by the departure of Georgetown's top three scorers from last season. Porter reached double-digit scoring in four of the Hoyas' final five games, including a season-high 20 versus Pittsburgh. One of his three double doubles came in an overtime loss to rival Syracuse. At least two opportunities are coming this season before the Orange defect to the ACC. B.S.

ent evaluators from all levels. His stellar performance in those showcases has turned him into a projected NBA draft lottery pick. Even those coaches who overlooked him a little more than half a year ago have made amends, naming Porter to the preseason All-Big East first team. The Associated Press followed suit, making the sophomore a preseason honorable mention on its All-America squad this week.

Georgetown coach John Thompson III isn't worried about the attention corrupting the unassuming Porter.

"He knows what's out there — and we don't try to hide from him what's out there. He's dealing with it fine," Thompson said. "I think the reason a lot of good things have happened and will

"You're going to expect the sophomores to act like juniors and seniors in terms of production."

— HOYAS COACH JOHN THOMPSON III, ON HOW YOUNGSTERS LIKE OTTO PORTER ARE GOING TO BE KEY TO THE TEAM THIS SEASON

continue to happen to him is because he doesn't get engrossed in all of that."

Porter entered Georgetown last season as part of a heralded class, playing a key and at times leading role in the Hoyas' 24-win campaign.

With last year's team leaders Jason Clark, Henry Sims and Hollis Thompson all gone, expectations for Porter this year are exponentially higher.

"He's going to have the proverbial 'X' on his back this year," Thompson said. "He's going to be the guy that people are going to prepare for and plan for. So it will be more difficult. That being said, I trust him. I think he's very prepared. ... He truly takes pride in, and excels at, every aspect of the game. He's ready."

So, how well is Porter handling the brighter spotlight?

"I try to not pay much attention to it," Porter said of the early season hype. "It's not working too good."

BENJAMIN STANDIG (FOR EXPRESS)

In Brief

WEATHER

N.Y. Marathon to Go on, But NBA Game Canceled



Bloomberg

Mayor Michael Bloomberg says the NYC Marathon will go on as planned Sunday after Superstorm Sandy devastated the city. But the Knicks-Nets basketball game that was scheduled for Thursday in Brooklyn was postponed, and Major League Soccer moved the first leg of the D.C. United-New York Red Bulls playoff series to Washington on Saturday. (AP)

PRO FOOTBALL

Vick Officially Gets Nod

Andy Reid made it official: Michael Vick will remain the starting quarterback for the Philadelphia Eagles. The coach announced the decision Wednesday, but neither Reid nor Vick are scheduled to address the media until Thursday. (AP)

PRO BASKETBALL

Harden Gets \$80M Deal

Several outlets reported Wednesday that the Houston Rockets agreed to a five-year, \$80 million contract with new addition James Harden. (EXPRESS)

TV Lineup

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (7:30 P.M., ESPN) Virginia Tech still has a shot at reaching the ACC title game entering its game at Miami.

PRO FOOTBALL (8 P.M., NFLN) The San Diego Chargers and Kansas City Chiefs play in an AFC West matchup.

PRO BASKETBALL (9:30 P.M., TNT) The Brooklyn Nets-New York Knicks game is off because of Superstorm Sandy, but you can still watch the San Antonio Spurs play the Oklahoma City Thunder.

SOCCER (10:30 P.M., NBCSN) The Los Angeles Galaxy and Vancouver Whitecaps play in the MLS playoffs.

Sports

Meriweather Improving, But Return Date Is Iffy

The Redskins

Redskins strong safety Brandon Meriweather said Wednesday he expects to practice fully this week and will push himself to determine whether he can make his season debut when Washington hosts the Carolina Panthers on Sunday.

Sidelined all season with sprained ligaments in his left knee, Meriweather has twice tried to return to action, only to suffer setbacks. He first injured the knee during the preseason, sat out two weeks and was cleared to practice fully the Monday before the season opener, but re-injured the knee in

that practice. In Week 4, Meriweather was set to come back but injured the knee in a pregame collision with receiver Aldrick Robinson.

The 5-foot-11, 197-pound Meriweather has missed the past four games, and this time, he and the team's medical staff have taken an ultracautious approach. Meriweather practiced one day last week to test out his knee, and after experiencing some soreness, watched the final two sessions of the week.

"I'm going to go out, push it a little bit and if it goes good, y'all might see me out there. If it goes bad, I'll be out another week," he said. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

A Sea of Black and Orange



GIANTS ACE MATT CAIN, RIGHT, and his family ride in a car during a parade for the World Series champions in San Francisco on Wednesday. Fittingly on Halloween, the city was flooded with black and orange for the home team.



SCANDALS

Up in Smoke

His career is in ruins, and now an effigy of Lance Armstrong is about to go up in smoke. The disgraced cyclist has been chosen as the latest celebrity to be burned in effigy during Edenbridge, England's, famed Bonfire Night celebrations Saturday. The effigy sports the sign: "For sale, racing bike, no longer required." (AP)

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8			4		7		6
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